New Orleans States-Item 28 July 1971

DA Drops Bribery Charges

Charges filed in 1967 by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison against two television reporters in connection with alleged bribery of witnesses in the Kennedy assassination probe have been dropped.

First Asst. DA John Volz said the cases were dropped because of the elapsed time in the case and because the main case against Clay Shaw has been terminated. He said no useful purpose would be served by further prosecution.

Walter Sheridan, working for the National Broadcasting Co., and Richard Townley, of WDSU-TV, produced a TV documentary June 19, 1967, critical of Garrison's Kennedy probe. The following month Garrison charged Sheridan with bribing Perry R. Russo, a witness who later testified in the Shaw trial.

Garrison charged Townley with bribing Russo and two others he said were potential witnesses.

The case has been in the federal courts for the past two years.